

Sequoia National Forest
P.O. Box 391
Porterville, California 93257

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July 15, 1971

Honorable Jerome Waldie
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Waldie:

This will reply to your letter of July 8, 1971.

I welcome the chance to explain the area of disagreement between Mrs. Richard Koch and myself.

Mrs. Koch is one of 67 permittees with permits to own and maintain a summer home on National Forest land in Mineral King Valley.

Summer before last Mrs. Koch placed some signs, bumper stickers, petitions, etc., near the road into Mineral King adjacent to her residence on National Forest land. Without a permit to do so, this act was in violation of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 251.93 (copy enclosed). This material was removed and subsequently returned to Mrs. Koch.

After this incident Mrs. Koch applied for a permit to post signs and notices in Mineral King Valley, indicating that in her opinion the proposed recreational development in Mineral King was undesirable.

Since a permit to Mrs. Koch would open the door to others, both pro and con on Mineral King development, and could lead to a proliferation of signs and notices, I refused to grant such a permit but did tell Mrs. Koch she could use the bulletin board near the Forest Service Station, which she did.

Since that time, the Sierra Club has placed the future of Mineral King in the hands of the Supreme Court. We therefore have no alternative but to await the decision of the Courts before any development may take place in Mineral King.

National Forest bulletin boards are for use by the Forest Service to display informational material, regulations, etc., for the

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benefit of the general public. I personally recognize that Mrs. Koch is sincere in her desire to "save Mineral King from the masses" but many people have questioned the objectivity of some of the cabin owners on National Forest land who stand to lose their summer homes if Mineral King is developed for general public recreation. Since the same question of objectivity could be raised for other special interest groups such as the Sierra Club, ski clubs, motorcycle riders, or back-packers, etc., we have decided to not permit any public groups to post notices or signs relative to the development of Mineral King on National Forest land or on National Forest bulletin boards at this time. Section 251.93 of the Code of Federal Regulations gives me, as Forest Supervisor, the right to deny such action.

I hope that you and Mrs. Koch will see the rationale behind our decision in this case and that she will be content to let the Courts decide what should be done in Mineral King.

I am taking the liberty of sending Mrs. Koch a copy of this letter as a reply to her latest one to me.

Sincerely,

M. R. JAMES

M. R. JAMES
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

✓ cc: Mrs. Richard Koch
6334 W. 80th Street
Los Angeles, California 90045

FOREST SERVICE REGULATIONS HANDBOOK

(d) Polluting or contaminating water supplies or water used for human consumption.

(e) Depositing, except into receptacles provided for that purpose, any body waste in or on any portion of any comfort station or any public structure, or depositing any bottles, cans, cloths, rags, metal, wood, stone, or other damaging substance in any of the fixtures in such stations or structures.

(f) Using refuse containers or other refuse facilities for dumping household or commercial garbage or trash brought as such from private property.

§ 251.93 Public behavior, preservation of public property and resources.

The following acts are prohibited at developed recreation sites and posted areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(a) Inciting or participating in riots, or indulging in boisterous, abusive, threatening, or indecent conduct.

(b) Destroying, defacing, or removing any natural feature or plant.

(c) Destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, or disturbing in any manner any public building, sign, equipment, marker, or other structure or property.

(d) Selling or offering for sale any merchandise without the written consent of the Forest Supervisor.

(e) Distributing any handbills, or circulars, or posting, placing, or erecting any bills, notices, papers, or advertising devices or matter of any kind without the written consent of the Forest Supervisor.

(f) Discharging firearms, firecrackers, rockets, or any other fireworks.

§ 251.94 Audio devices.

The following acts are prohibited at developed recreation sites and posted areas of concentrated public recreation use.

(a) Operating or using any audio devices, including radio, television, and musical instruments, and other noise producing devices, such as electrical generator plants and equipment driven by motors or engines, in such a manner and at such times so as to disturb other persons.

(b) Operating or using public address systems, whether fixed, portable, or vehicle mounted, except when such use or operation has been approved by the Forest Supervisor in writing.